

The first Wasatch High School Faculty 1910-11

J. W. Robinson
Principal

O. A. Whitaker



James Johnson

be a county institution and include students from all parts of the valley. However, many of the events surrounding its establishment, and the selection of Heber City as the school's "home town," warrant mention here of high school history in addition to that already included in Chapter 6.

The early history of the school was presented in an historical statement in the 1910-11 Wasatch High School Annual:

"The 'Wasatch High School' began its history under date of January 28, 1908 in an official meeting of the Heber District Trustees, at which time David A. Broadbent (principal of Heber District Schools) presented to the board, then comprised of J. W. Clyde, W. S. Willes and Frederick Crook,

the advisability of urging a consolidation of the districts of Wasatch County into a high school district.

After much discussion, the parties decided to go in body to each of the other districts and lay before them the feasibility of the plan. Accordingly the trustees of Midway, Charleston, Daniel, Center, Wallburg, Elkhorn and Riverdale, were visited with an accumulating number of members, all of whom were favorable to the consolidation.

The County Superintendent was then petitioned by the trustees of the respective districts, save Wallburg, to call an election wherein the citizens could express their wishes in the matter, by ballot. The result of this election showed an overwhelming majority from each district in favor of local high school instruction.

"A later election chose J. W. Clyde and D. A. Broadbent from Heber; Chas. I. Bronson and Geo. A. Huntington from Midway; J. M. Ritchie and E. L. Cropper, Charleston; Virgil Howe and W. S. Plummer, Daniel; H. W. Harvey and A. M. Hanson, Center; Jas. McDonald and Wm. Davis, Elkhorn; J. R. Baum and Geo. B. Jordan, Riverdale; who with Superintendent Orson Ryan as chairman comprised the first board of trustees.

"On canvassing the various districts for prospective high school students, it was found there were more than a hundred eligible for entrance, twenty-five of whom were eligible for second year work. For this reason the board decided to offer, during our initial year, a two-year course; which resulted in the enrollment of 75 first year and 25 second year students.

"At the opening of our 2nd year, a third year course was added. The year closed May 13, 1910, with a graduating class of 18 members.

"With J. W. Robinson as principal and the loyal and substantial support of our citizens, we have hastily become an institution second to no rural high school in the state.

"Through the courtesy of the citizens of Heber we are privileged to hold forth in quarters of their school building and in rooms over the Heber Mercantile, pending the erection of our high school home.

"With Andrew L. Neff and his assisting faculty for the coming year we may proudly say that the sons and daughters of Wasatch need no longer leave the county for first class high school work."

This enthusiastic report then continued with a description of the various classes to be offered during the 1910-11 school year, and the extra-curricular sports and cultural activities.

The first high school faculty consisted of three persons, Prof. Robinson, the principal, James Johnson and O. A. Whitaker. The second year, an English teacher, Ramona Wilcox, a domestic arts teacher, Florence Billings and an athletic coach, Henry Raile, were added to the faculty.

Equipment for the school rooms was hard to come by, and many stu-